

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 STATE 158083
ORIGIN AF-10

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 EB-07 ISO-00 PM-04 DODE-00 AID-05
DHA-02 ACDA-07 SS-15 OMB-01 IGA-02 TRSE-00
CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 NSC-05 SP-02 L-03 H-01
MC-02 /084 R

DRAFTED BY AF/W:DVKILLION:LFS
APPROVED BY AF/W:TWMSMITH
PM:DKEENE
DOD/ISA:SCHARLES

-----094417 080412Z /14

R 072152Z JUL 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY BAMAKO
INFO AMEMBASSY DAKAR
AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN
AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT
AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU
AMEMBASSY NIAMEY
AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 158083

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, ML, US

SUBJECT: MALIAN AMBASSADOR REQUESTS MILITARY ASSISTANCE:
PARACHUTES AND TRAINING

SUMMARY: MALIAN AMBASSADOR SIMA SOUGHT MEETING WITH
AF/W DIRECTOR TO REQUEST US MILITARY PARACHUTES AND
TRAINING FOR PILOTS AND MECHANICS. WE OUTLINED DIF-
FICULTIES, AND OFFERED TO CONSIDER REQUEST AS SOON AS
MORE PRECISE INFORMATION IS FORTHCOMING. END SUMMARY.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 STATE 158083

1. AMBASSADOR SIMA OF MALI CALLED AT HIS REQUEST ON
AF/W DIRECTOR JULY 1. COUNTRY OFFICER ATTENDED MEETING.

2. SIMA SAID THAT JUST BEFORE TAKING UP NEW DUTIES
AS AMBASSADOR LATE LAST YEAR HE HAD MADE ROUNDS OF
MALIAN MINISTRIES AND HAD BEEN TASKED BY DEFENSE MINIS-
TRY WITH MAKING AN APPROACH TO THE USG ON A MATTER OF

SPECIAL INTEREST -- THE NEED FOR REPLACEMENT PARACHUTES AND FOR MILITARY TRAINING ESPECIALLY FOR PILOTS AND MECHANICS. SIMA HAD WAITED UNTIL THE NEW US ADMINISTRATION WAS FIRMLY IN PLACE AND NOW FELT TIME WAS APPROPRIATE TO BROACH SUBJECT WITH US BEFORE SUBMITTING A DIPLOMATIC NOTE. SIMA SAID HIS COUNTRY WAS TURNING TO US FOR THIS REQUEST BECAUSE MAJOR ELEMENTS OF MALI'S AIR FORCE, INCLUDING PARACHUTE BATTALION, WERE INITIALLY TRAINED AND EQUIPPED BY THE US. THE EXISTING STOCK OF MILITARY PARACHUTES WAS NOW OLD AND DETERIORATING. THE TRAINING NEEDS IN SPECIALIZED AND TECHNICAL AREAS AROSE BECAUSE THE MALIAN MILITARY ACADEMY COVERED ONLY GENERAL SUBJECTS.

3. WE REPLIED THAT IT IS OUR GENERAL POLICY TO PROVIDE PILOT TRAINING ONLY WHEN IT IS ASSOCIATED WITH THE SALE OF US AIRCRAFT. LOGISTICS AND MANAGEMENT COURSES WOULD SEEM MORE APPROPRIATE. BUT IN ANY EVENT MORE SPECIFIC INFORMATION ON TRAINING DESIRED WOULD BE NECESSARY IF WE ARE TO GIVE THIS CONSIDERATION. WE ASKED SIMA WHETHER THE DEFENSE MINISTRY HAD RAISED THIS MATTER WITH SIMA SINCE THE AMBASSADOR'S ROUND OF CONSULTATIONS BEFORE COMING TO WASHINGTON. SIMA RESPONDED THEY HAD, BUT HE HAD CAUTIONED WAITING UNTIL THE NEW ADMINISTRATION WAS SETTLED.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 STATE 158083

4. WE SAID THAT WHILE WE WOULD EXPLORE THE SITUATION, THE NEW USG ADMINISTRATION TAKES A CAUTIOUS APPROACH TO MILITARY ASSISTANCE, AND REQUESTS FOR TRAINING AS WELL AS FOR ARMS ARE EXAMINED VERY CAREFULLY. IN ADDITION, HUMAN RIGHTS CONSIDERATIONS ARE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT. WE SUGGESTED THAT SIMA NOT SEND A DIPLOMATIC NOTE UNTIL WE HAVE A CHANCE TO REVIEW THE ISSUES INVOLVED. WE NOTED THAT WE HAD A MILITARY ASSISTANCE RELATIONSHIP WITH MALI BEFORE THAT COUNTRY'S BORDER DISPUTE WITH UPPER VOLTA, AND ASKED IF THIS IS NOW DEFINITELY SETTLED. SIMA INSISTED THAT IT IS. HE REFERRED TO AN EXCHANGE OF SENIOR OFFICIAL VISITS BY THE TWO NATIONS IN 1975, AND SAID THE MATTER WAS IN ANY EVENT FORMALLY SETTLED AT THE RECENT ABIDJAN CEAO MEETING WHERE A MUTUAL NON-AGGRESSION PACT WAS ADOPTED. BOTH MALI AND UPPER VOLTA ARE CEAO MEMBERS. SIMA ASSERTED THAT MALI HAD ABSOLUTELY NO DIFFICULTIES WITH ANY OF ITS NEIGHBORS. MALI'S NEEDS WERE TO REPLACE UNSAFE PARACHUTES AND TO GET SPECIALIZED TRAINING NOT AVAILABLE IN MALI -- NOTHING ELSE.

5. WE POINTED OUT THAT SOME OF MALI'S NEIGHBORS, SUCH

AS SENEGAL AND IVORY COAST, HAVE EXPRESSED CONCERN ABOUT FOREIGN MILITARY WEAPONS INTRODUCED INTO MALI. SIMA SAID THAT THERE HAVE BEEN SEVERAL RECENT DEVELOPMENTS WHICH CAST A NEW LIGHT ON THE SITUATION -- THE ABIDJAN CEAO PACT, THE SHABA DEVELOPMENTS, MALI'S COOPERATION WITH MAURITANIA REGARDING THE USE OF MALIAN TERRITORY BY THE POLISARIO, AND THE CURRENT OAU SUMMIT, WHERE IT IS POSSIBLE THAT A RESOLUTION ON EXTERNAL THREATS TO THE AFRICAN CONTINENT MIGHT BE ADOPTED. HIS DEMARCHE

WAS NO REFLECTION OF ANY CURRENT PROBLEM OR SITUATION.

6. IN RESPONSE TO OUR QUESTION ABOUT EXTENSION AND IMPROVEMENTS OF AIRFIELDS IN MALI BY THE SOVIETS, CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 STATE 158083

SIMA SAID THAT AS A LANDLOCKED AND RELATIVELY LARGE AFRICAN COUNTRY, MALI NEEDS AIRFIELDS. THESE ARE AN IMPORTANT PART OF HIS NATION'S ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PLANS, AND MOST OF THOSE BEING EXTENDED ARE NOT RPT NOT MILITARY AIRFIELDS.

7. WE WONDERED ABOUT THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE PROFICIENCY OF MALIAN MILITARY PERSONNEL WHO MIGHT BE CONSIDERED FOR TRAINING. SIMA RESPONDED THAT HE THOUGHT AN ENGLISH LANGUAGE LABORATORY FOR MALI'S MILITARY HAD BEEN UNDER WAY AT ONE TIME. HE WAS NOT SURE IF IT HAD ACTUALLY BEEN SET UP OR NOT, BUT IN ANY EVENT, HE THOUGHT ALTERNATIVE ARRANGEMENTS COULD BE MADE FOR ENGLISH LANGUAGE TRAINING IN US INSTITUTIONS SUCH AS GEORGETOWN.

8. WE CONCLUDED THAT BEST COURSE WOULD BE FOR US TO CHECK INTO MALIAN REQUEST. WE WOULD EXAMINE THE BACKGROUND, OBSTACLES, AND POLICY CONSIDERATIONS, AND WOULD INFORM OUR AMBASSADOR IN BAMAKO. WE WOULD LET SIMA KNOW THE RESULTS OF OUR SURVEY BY THE END OF NEXT WEEK. SIMA AGREED, NOTING THAT SINCE HE HAD INITIATED THIS ACTION HE WOULD EXPECT FUTURE DISCUSSIONS TO TAKE PLACE IN WASHINGTON IN ADDITION TO ANY BETWEEN THE US EMBASSY IN BAMAKO AND THE GOVERNMENT OF MALI.

9. COMMENT: AMBASSADOR SIMA WAS NOT ARMED WITH DETAILED BACKGROUND INFORMATION OR PRECISE INSTRUCTIONS FOR HIS DEMARCHE. IT SEEMED TO US THAT HE WAS CHARGED WITH MAKING PRELIMINARY SOUNDINGS TO GET OUR REACTION TO LONG-EXPECTED MALIAN REQUEST FOR RESUMPTION OF FMS PROGRAM.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 05 STATE 158083

10. FOR EMBASSY BAMAKO: WOULD APPRECIATE YOUR ASSESSMENT OF AMBASSADOR SIMA'S REQUEST AND YOUR VIEWS ON HOW HIS DEMARCHE MIGHT BE UTILIZED TO PROMOTE US INTERESTS IN MALI.

11. FOR INFO MISSIONS: WOULD APPRECIATE YOUR COMMENTS ON PROBABLE HOST GOVERNMENT REACTION TO ANY RESUMPTION OF US MILITARY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM TO MALI OF THE ORDER PROPOSED BY AMBASSADOR SIMA.

VANCE

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MILITARY ASSISTANCE, MILITARY TRAINING
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 07-Jul-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977STATE158083
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: DVKILLION:LFS
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770242-0705
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770781/aaaacsme.tel
Line Count: 186
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: e500156f-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 23-Nov-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1933238
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MALIAN AMBASSADOR REQUESTS MILITARY ASSISTANCE: PARACHUTES AND TRAINING SUMMARY: MALIAN AMBASSADOR SIMA SOUGHT MEETING WI
TAGS: MASS, ML, US
To: BAMAKO
Type: TE
vdkgvkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/e500156f-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009